

Attorney Docket No. A32966-A
PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12-19 were pending. Claims 1 and 12-16 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue any canceled subject matter in other applications. Claims 2-11 were previously canceled without prejudice.

Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 17-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form to include the elements of Claim 1. Claims 18 and 19 remain dependent on Claim 17 and thus are now in allowable form.

New Claims 20-23 which are dependent on Claim 17 have been added. Claims 20-23 are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed (*see, e.g.*, Claims 13-16). Newly added Claim 24 is also supported by the specification and claims as originally filed (*see, e.g.*, Claims 1 and 17). New Claims 25-30, which mirror dependent Claims 18-23, have been added and find support in, *inter alia*, the originally filed Claims 13-19. As such, no new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Claims 17-30 are pending.

The abstract is objected to with respect to informalities. Applicant has amended the abstract to comply. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the abstract be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 12 and 14 have been rejected as allegedly obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,887,833 to Sundara et al. ("Sundara") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,829,585 to Kao et al. ("Kao"). Withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is requested in view of Applicant's cancellation of these claims without prejudice.

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Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,431,563. Withdrawal of this double patenting rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested in view of Applicant's cancellation of Claim 1 without prejudice.

As indicated by the Examiner, Claim 17 – now rewritten in independent form to include the elements of Claim 1 – is deemed to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 18-23, which are dependent on amended Claim 17, are also in allowable form. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 24-30, which partly overlap in scope with Claims 17-23, respectively, are also allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, and entry of the foregoing remarks into the file history of the above-identified application. Applicant believes that in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are in condition for allowance and accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections. An allowance is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: March 30, 2004